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17 February 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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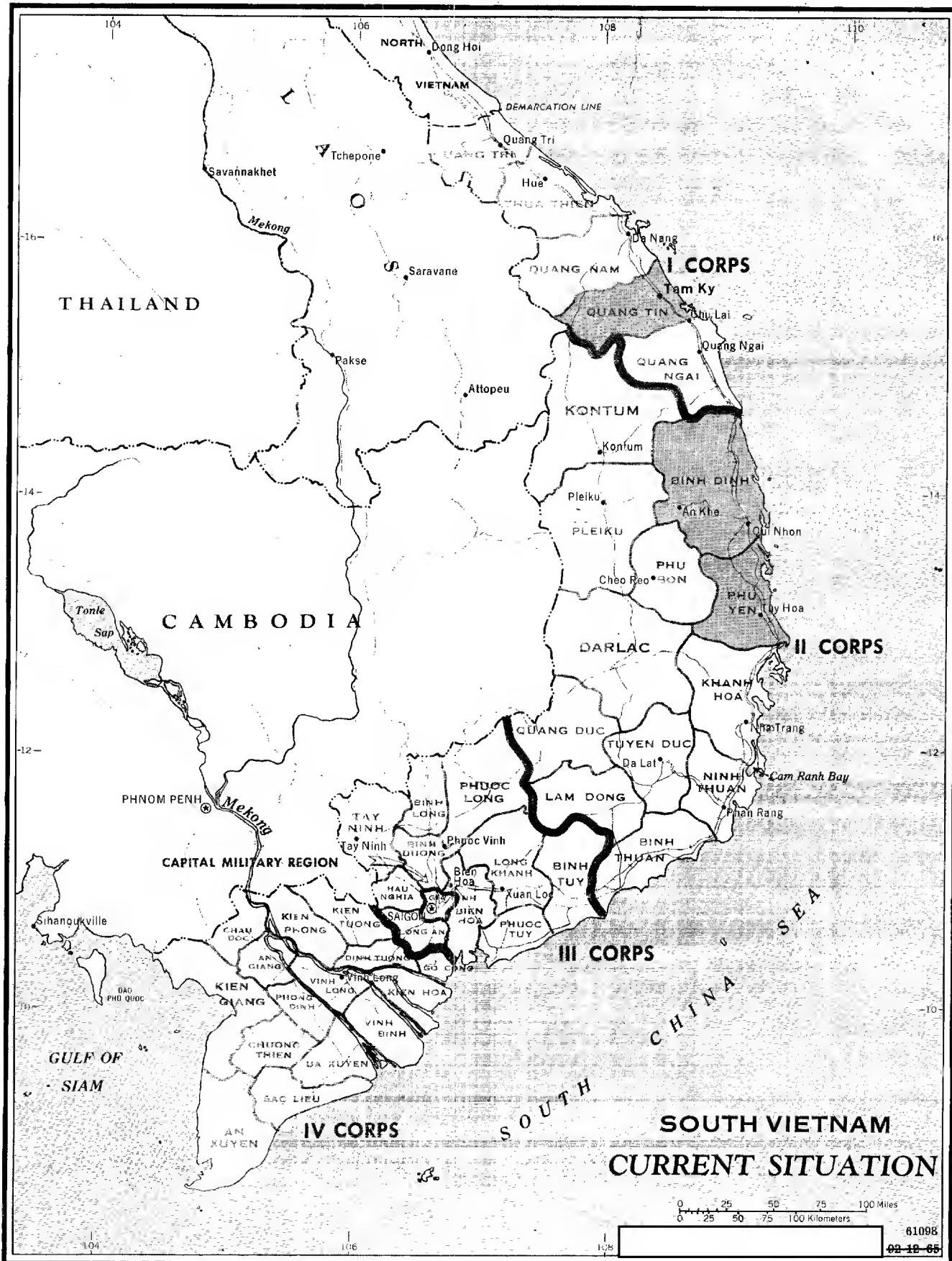
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: There were no reports of significant enemy contact yesterday in allied operations continuing in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces. US forces in Phu Yen Province, however, did discover an enemy cache which contained ammunition, grenades, and some 67 weapons. A prisoner taken by elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division in Binh Dinh Province on 15 February has been initially identified as a battalion commander from the 2nd Viet Cong Regiment.

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Information provided [redacted]

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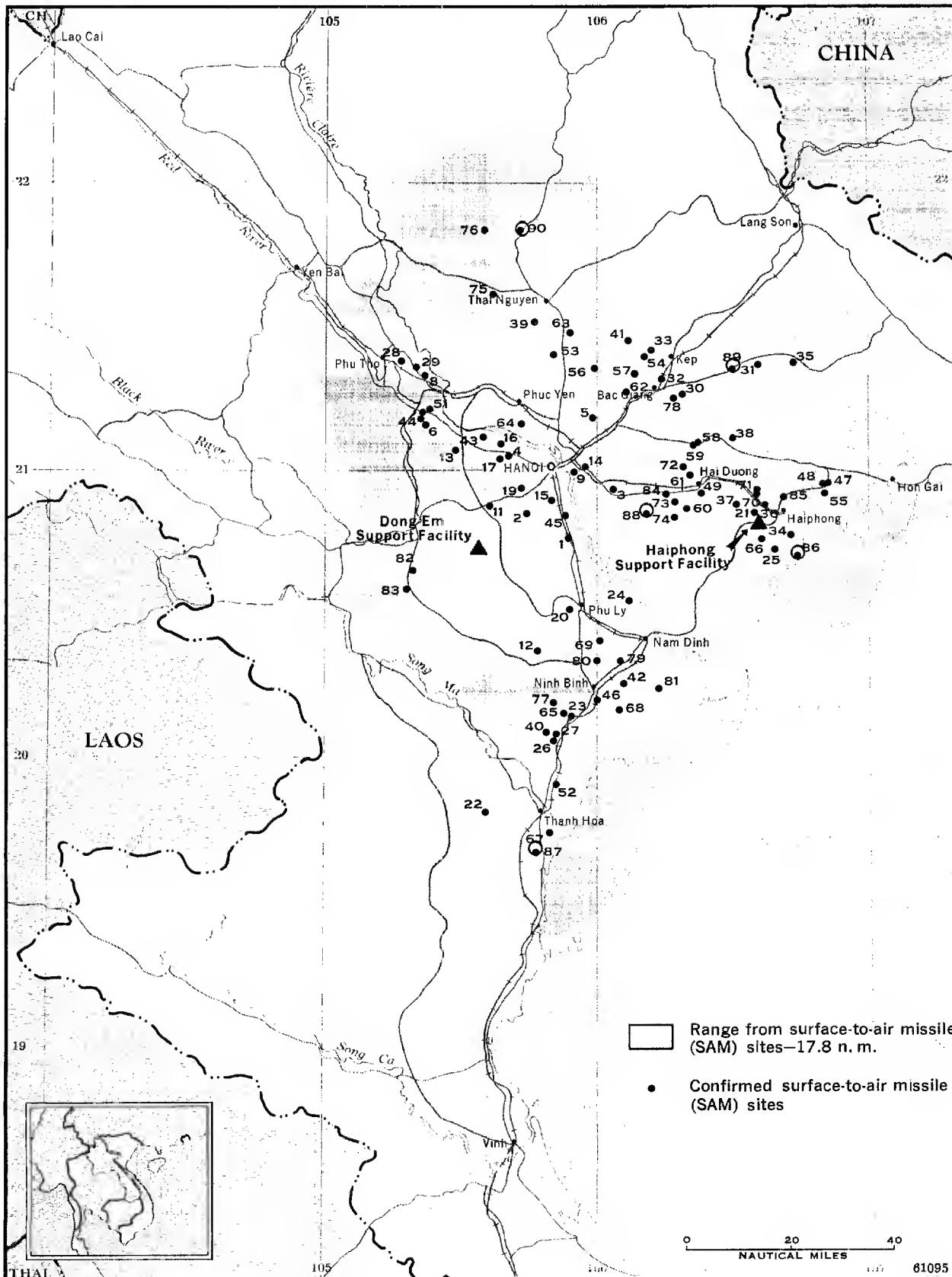
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[redacted] has corroborated previous evidence of a North Vietnamese "Quyet Tam" Regiment in northern Binh Dinh Province. [redacted] this unit entered South Vietnam between August and October 1965, and had a strength of 3,000 men when it left North Vietnam. The regiment, which included various support components in addition to three infantry battalions, was ordered to disperse temporarily into small groups during the allied offensive in Binh Dinh Province.

US military officials in Saigon have commented that the 15 February enemy attack on an outpost near Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province may presage a large scale Communist offensive against the provincial capital itself. The Viet Cong 1st Regiment, the North Vietnamese 36th Regiment (still unconfirmed), and the Viet Cong 70th Local Force Battalion have recently been reported in the area.

Two reinforced ARVN battalions have been conducting a search-and-destroy ground sweep in the delta province of Kien Hoa since 13 February. These units have thus far killed 131 Viet Cong, captured six, seized over 125, 000

NORTH VIETNAM: SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES



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rounds of ammunition, grenades, mines and 18 large boxes of medicine.

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North Vietnamese Military Developments: [Further analysis of recently acquired photography has disclosed a total of 90 prepared surface-to-air missile sites in North Vietnam. Of these, 87 are presently usable; the balance apparently have been abandoned. In terms of actual threat, the addition of prepared firing positions does not increase North Vietnam's capability to deter US air operations. It merely represents a numerical increase in positions to which firing units can be deployed.]

[Recent photography has also disclosed a SAM support facility in the vicinity of Haiphong, the second detected in North Vietnam. The site contains five drive-through buildings, one large drive-in building and seven other buildings. Such facilities store and maintain missile components and associated electronic equipment. The first facility, located at Dong Em, was struck by US aircraft on 7 and 27 November.]

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Other Major Developments: [The Communists are continuing to make a concerted effort to improve and expand the northern section of the infiltration network in Laos. A new infiltration road leading from North Vietnam into Laos apparently is being built. Aerial observers have confirmed recent photography showing a new road leading northeast from Route 911 toward the North Vietnamese border. The observers made a low-level flight over the new road on 12 February and reported that construction was proceeding to the border. They also reported that a heavily used trail led from a point where the new road has been completed to Ban Karai, a border village in North Vietnam.]

[Recent roadwatch reports indicate that the Communists are continuing to move trucks south on Route 23, although at somewhat reduced levels. The combined southbound average for Routes 23 and 911 now stands at 30 trucks per day. Coverage of the roads has been curtailed in recent weeks, however, by heavy enemy patrol activity.

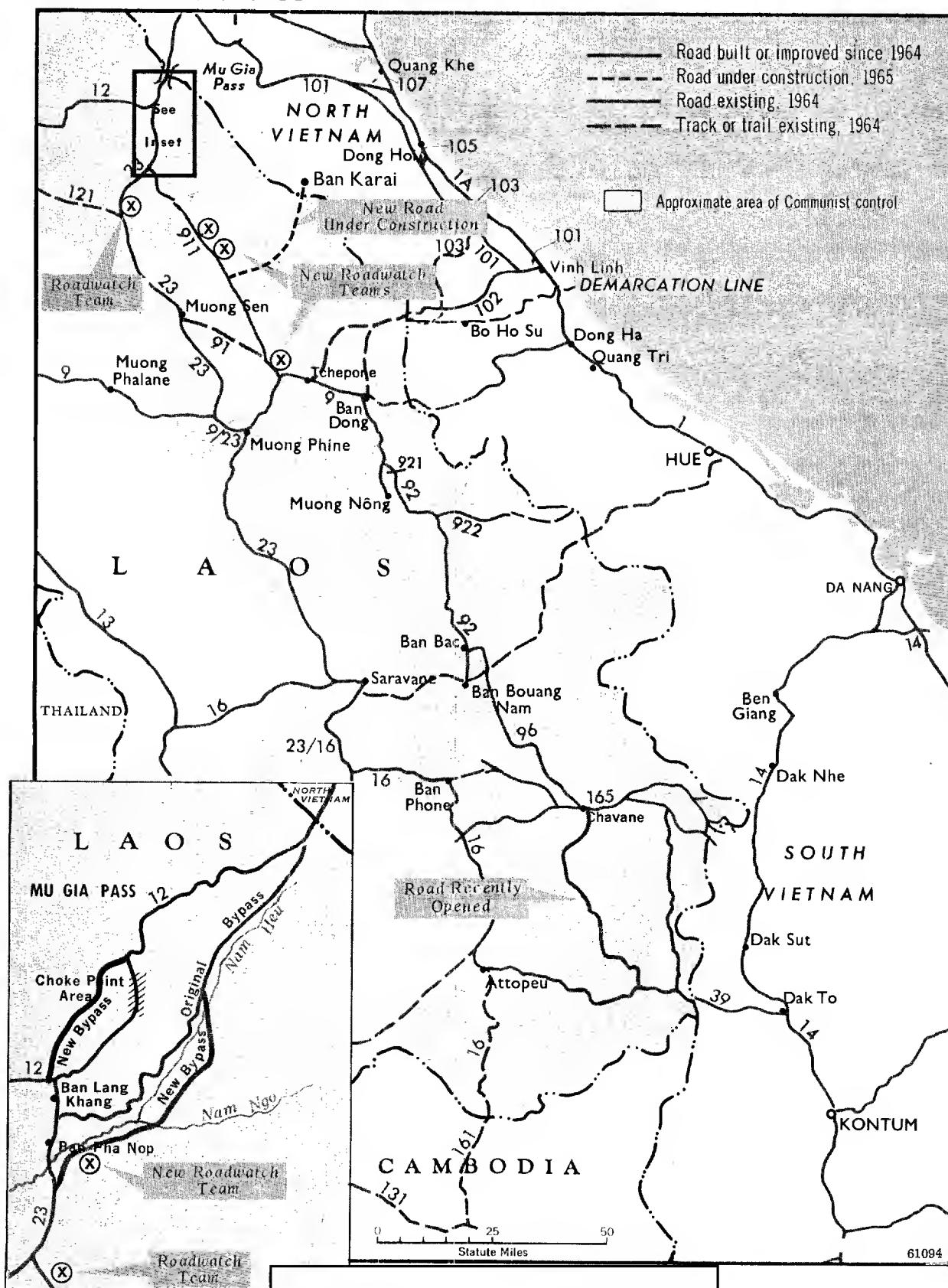
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SOUTHEASTERN LAOS



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The infiltration net leading from Mu Gia to Tchepone, some 85 miles to the south, should be covered better by four additional roadwatch teams recently positioned along the corridor. One team, located some ten miles north of Tchepone, will permit firmer estimates of the number of enemy trucks entering Laos with cargo destined for South Vietnam.] [

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The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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